

# **THE TIMES-DISPATCH** DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

Business Office: 916 E. Main Street  
 Advertising Office: 1103 Hall Street  
 Petersburg Bureau: 1109 N. Sycamore Street  
 Lynchburg Bureau: 215 Eighth Street

BY MAIL: One Six Three One  
 POSTAGE PAID: Year, Mo. Mo. Mo.  
 Daily with Sunday: \$4.00 \$1.00 \$1.50  
 Daily without Sunday: 4.00 2.00 1.00  
 Sunday edition only: 2.00 1.00 .50  
 Weekly (Wednesday): 1.00 .50 .25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs), Manchester and Petersburg—

One Week  
 Daily with Sunday: 14 cents  
 Daily without Sunday: 10 cents  
 Sunday only: 5 cents

Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1910.

## **THE STATE'S POWER OVER PRISONERS**

Supporting an objection to the compulsory feature of the Byrd primary bill, the Petersburg Index-Appeal says:

We do not think that the State should extend its jurisdiction to or in any way exercise power over the internal affairs of political parties any more than over the management of citizens in their religious or business associations.

This argument, logically carried out, would prevent any primary law at all. Every provision in every primary law is an extension of the State's jurisdiction and an exercise of the State's power over the internal affairs of political parties. It is true that an optional law leaves these parties free to use the primary or not as they themselves prefer. But if they elect to use it they find their freedom rigidly curtailed and delimited by the very State power which, it is here argued, should leave them entirely alone. Every political party might desire to use a form of primary of its own making, and it would be free to do so if the State was prohibited from exercising power over it "in any way." But this would mean that we should have no primary law at all.

To the Times-Dispatch it appears that when the State's right to regulate primaries in any particular is admitted, its right to regulate them in all particulars is also admitted. A compulsory primary is justified on exactly the same theory that a State-paid primary is justified; namely, that it tends to the general benefit of all the people. We favor making the use of the primary mandatory on the ground that it is the best nominating system yet evolved; and the more detailed, exact and specific the primary form adopted, the fairer and more conclusive will be the test of the whole system. The prediction of some of our contemporaries that the coming Legislature will not adopt a compulsory primary is, we fear, well-grounded. But we shall match this with the prediction of our own that if the Legislature fails to take this step in 1910, it will take it in two years or four or six.

## **AN EDITOR AMONG MANY.**

The decision of Alfred B. Williams to transfer his abilities and activities to another city leaves a large hole in the life of Richmond. First of all, Mr. Williams is an excellent citizen, public-spirited, progressive, of wide and quick interests, touching the busy life about him at many points and seeing significance and usefulness in them all. In any capacity he is the sort of man whom it helps the people of a city to have among them. But in his own case, the qualities of a valuable citizen have been given a high light and a multiplied energy by the sort of work it has been his lot to do here for many years past.

The readers of a large daily newspaper are of all sorts and conditions, of every character, creed, class and place. To write in such a way as to hold and interest a circle of such extremely varied complexion is as difficult a feat as is known to the craft of the pen. Let him who doubts this statement try it and see. In a very rare measure, Mr. Williams possesses the gift of writing to please all those whom we mean when we speak of "the people." In the numerous tributes that have recently been paid him, his independence and fearlessness of judgment have been dwelt on more than anything else. But it is a fact that many editors are independent and fearless, while very few indeed have captured the great secret of a vivid, warm and charming style.

In addition to vigor of intellect and expression, apart from sound and high ideas, Mr. Williams has the happy gifts of humor, of sentiment, of the imaginative grace, of a use of satire without sting which makes him a power in controversy, of a well-stored mind and an overflowing fancy which find no day's news so dull that they cannot produce some good reading from it. All these high editorial qualities have been warmly appreciated in Richmond. Not in the State or in the South only, but in the whole country there are few editors who have established such a bond of sympathy and human liking between themselves and their readers. Many persons who never met Mr. Williams outside of his daily columns in the News Leader have come to feel for him the personal regard of old friendship.

In no trite sense, Richmond's loss is to be another city's very substantial gain. It is not often that a city of Roanoke's size succeeds in commanding the services of an editor of Mr. Williams' figure. Since he is to leave us, to the very general regret, we may find some satisfaction in his choice of a new field of usefulness inside the borders of Virginia. The State will be benefited by the fact that his strong voice is henceforward to reach the traditions and political

principles of Old Virginia in the new Southwest.

## **THE LAST STAR OF THE OLD STAGE.**

On Sunday the final curtain was rung down on the last survivor of the old-time stage. There may yet remain a few walking gentlemen who strutted in grease-paint and gaiters when Forrest set New York wild from the stage of Niblo's, but Mrs. Agnes Booth, whose death was announced yesterday, was the only remaining star who shared applause with the great lions of the old theatre.

With her passing, only memories and traditions remain as the afterglow of America's golden day of drama. That day was at its noon when Mrs. Booth was in her prime. When she took the stage the elder Booth had almost ended his wonderful American career begun here in Richmond, and was battling with genius against the double darkness of old age and insanity. Edwin Booth—"the younger," he was called, even when an old man—was touring the West with his "Iron Chest," and was just beginning his immortal portrayals of Hamlet when she first attracted notice. The Forrest divorce case was over, with its scandals and its shame, the Macready-Forrest war was past, and the "sublime Edwin" was supreme when Mrs. Booth joined him as leading woman.

Years of intimate relationship with these celebrities gave her something of the spirit that enabled the older actors to enthral America from coast to coast. She knew something of that tense dramatic fire that filled the gaily Forrest when he threatened to "launch the curse of Rome" against the offending noble. She had grasped the dramatic art the younger Booth put into his "bare bodkin," and had gained from her father-in-law a touch of the mad power which the elder Booth threw into the famous "off with his head" order in Cribber's version of "Richard III."

Mrs. Booth lived to see these traditions upset in a new school, "The Gladiator," "The Poor Gentleman," "The Stranger," "The Hunchback," "Virginius" and the rest gave place to "Emeralda" and "Young Mrs. Winthrop's Marriage" before she left the stage. She played with the successors of Booth and starred with the heirs of Barrett. But she preserved throughout the spirit of the great tragedians who long since have passed off the stage and out the darkened wings of this earthly life.

## **MORSE.**

It is impossible to avoid feeling for Banker Morse a certain sympathy which has, we think, nothing of the "maudlin" in it. This multimillionaire and magnate's fall to stripes and a shaven head is about as dizzy and disastrous as anything in the history of crime. There is a heavy accumulation of popular resentment against financiers of his type, and it is quite true that he is partly paying for other men's sins. Many worse men than he have never gone to prison, despite the best efforts of the law to get some of them. Morse did as he found others of his class doing with impunity, men who certainly never thought of themselves as criminals. He has already served fourteen months in prison, has shown, until the final bitter outburst, an excellent spirit as well as a very plucky one; has paid off all his obligations, and let down the depositors of the wrecked bank without the loss of a single dollar. Under these circumstances, a sentence of fifteen years, probably a life-term for him, certainly does seem exceedingly severe.

Yet Morse knew the provisions of the national banking act; knew that he was violating them; knew that he was running the risk of exactly the dire punishment that has overtaken him. The country has good reason to fear operators of his sort, having suffered much from them in years gone by. He took the gambler's chance with the law, and he has no just complaint, if, being fairly caught, the aroused public opinion which he must have known about desired to see him punished to the limit of the law. Severity is most painful to the individual, but it is much less painful to society in the long run than leniency or impotence. From the standpoint of the general good, a drastic punishment was doubtless necessary here. Morse's methodical example should go very far toward breaking up those financial malpractices of the powerful and the unscrupulous, which have often in the past brought disaster to the innocent.

State Highway Commissioner Wilson's forthcoming report will show that 91 out of the 100 counties of Virginia have taken some steps toward public road improvement since the new road laws went into effect. Twelve counties have bonded themselves for roads, the total allotment among them being \$1,250,000. No State in the Union has made a more gratifying advance in this most important field of progress than Virginia has made during 1909. Moreover, seeds were sown in the twelve-month just ended the fruits of which should make 1910 an even more memorable year in road-building.

The Times-Dispatch has already expressed the view that there is much to commend in the plan of a negro exposition in 1912 to commemorate the black man's progress in his fifty years of freedom. If such a celebration should stimulate this progress by revealing to both races the forward steps that have already been taken, it would be very well worth while. But everything depends on the way in which it is managed. It is suggested now that the plan be taken hold of and pushed by a commission consisting of "four or five Southern white men and a larger number of Northern white men," negroes being omitted from the board altogether. Such an arrangement would partially defeat the general ob-

jects of the plan in advance. A negro exposition ought to be launched, supervised, managed and conducted by negroes. White men will lend it their aid and encouragement, financially and otherwise. But for white men to organize and run it would simply be to emphasize the negro's incapacity to do this for himself. This would not be a happy background for a celebration designed to call attention to the race's advance in the direction of self-help and self-reliance. It is also suggested that comparatively few negroes would be able to patronize the exposition on account of lack of means. This is one of those very simple practical thoughts which seems to offer much food for deliberation.

The proposal to connect Richmond with the Northern Neck district by an automobile line plying a regular schedule between Tappahannock and Milford may lead to very important results. At present the rich Essex county section is entirely cut off from this part of the State. The trip from Tappahannock to Richmond takes twenty-four hours, which, for the distance, is absolutely prohibitive. All relations between this city and a large population of Virginians, said to number 50,000, are about as effectually blocked as though they lived in Buffalo or Cincinnati. Baltimore, and not Richmond, is the metropolis of these people, and their valuable trade goes there as surely and as straight as though they naturally belonged to the Maryland city. This sort of thing, which exists with other districts than the Northern Neck, is one of the unreasonable and serious drawbacks of Richmond's position. The Essex people earnestly desire closer business and social relations with this city, but the railroad situation makes such a thing utterly impossible. The proposed automobile line, by tapping the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad at Milford, would, it is said, cut down the running time between Tappahannock and Richmond to four hours, as well as reduce the fare one-half. The Times-Dispatch would much like to see this line established on a profitable enough basis to insure its permanence, at least until the steam road comes.

Mayor Gaynor's first list of appointments has been received with general expressions of approval by the press of New York. The Democratic World points out that "there is not a single political hack in the list." The thick-and-thin Republican Tribune, which fought the new Mayor bitterly during his canvass, sees in his appointments a "high purpose and an independence which will be most gratifying to all who wish for him an administration of worthy achievement." The dyed-in-the-wool Republican Press, another uncompromising foe of the former judge's candidacy, thinks that the appointments "mark the beginning of a wonderfully clean and efficient administration of the city's affairs." The Mayor clearly has made an excellent start, well calculated to draw the teeth of his ante-election critics. The World directs special attention to one sentence from his letter offering the important post of Park Commissioner to Thomas J. Higgins: "No political interference or influence whatsoever shall be suffered in any department of the government of the city of New York." If Mayor Gaynor fully means this, as his first official step suggests, and completely enforces it, he may give the metropolis one of the cleanest and best administrations in its history. He has both the ability and the courage.

Mr. Cannon indulges in a few more sneers at Mr. Cummins, which is at least as effective a stand as endeavoring to keep the tides of Old Ocean back with a mop.

The January summertime of Richmond are just about the classic article that the weather man turns out.

Mayor Gaynor praises Murphy, but keeps all the juicy plums on his own side of the fence.

As we understand Dr. Molvin, half the meat eaten in the United States is unsupplied, but not unsuspected.

The sentiment of the United Mine Workers is said to be "unanimous for an increase in wages." And they telegraph in stuff like this as news.

Judge Lorton arrives on the Supreme bench in time to take a hand in settling the Tobacco Trust case, a decision which the august tribunal has long appeared to postpone with something like eagerness.

William Jennings Bryan has inspected the Panama Canal, which proves nothing whatever, either pro or con, hither or anon.

We estimate that Congress should now be sufficiently rested to put in a few consecutive hours of not so hard labor.

The seasons are hitting old Virginia assiduously and every whichways.

Hon. G. Pinchot loses none of his popularity by his habit of regarding meetings as places to speak right out in.

The Chicago News has discovered and divulged the fact that Senator Dixon is a big game hunter. The lengths to which some newspapers will go to discredit these insurgent fellows is really something awful.

The practical value of benevolent despotism is illustrated by the case with which Diaz made Zelaya shut up.

We will not endorse that Chicago chap's plan to blow up the United States Senate with nitro-glycerin until we have been convinced that there is no cheaper way.

Yesterday was the birthday anniversary of Marcus Tullius Cicero, and for all we know he may have entertained old Culline in the Houseboat on the SIXX.

Our own conviction is that Dr. Cook threw sixty feet of rope into the air, clumb it and pulled the rope up after him.

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## **Borrowed Jingles**

### **RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION.**

Some friends of mine the ocean crossed  
 To spend a long vacation;  
 "The weather," they all sounded forced,  
 "Will bring great consolation."  
 I wrote them letters by the yard,  
 Their confidence inviting,  
 Directed a picture postcard,  
 With little dabs of writing!  
 And while I hungered for some news,  
 Some token of affection,  
 They deluged me with motley "I was,"  
 "Malls bring cold collection,"  
 From ancient ruins, grim and charred,  
 To lovers, kisses plighting,  
 Upon a picture postcard,  
 With little dabs of writing!  
 Now tell me, please, how you would feel  
 With nothing but the old battle,  
 Or some defunct alvacaer;  
 A chronicle of the iron band,  
 Or Japs and Russians fighting,  
 Upon a picture postcard,  
 With little dabs of writing!  
 If ever abroad I should sojourn,  
 And leave those friends behind me,  
 Oh, would that I could send them  
 And wouldn't they malign me!  
 I'd send them, "Sentinel on guard,"  
 "Columbus first land sighting,"  
 All on a picture postcard,  
 With little dabs of writing!  
 Perchance they might in language terse  
 Demand an explanation,  
 Then, guiltlessly would I rehearse,  
 Of finding ground consolation;  
 My correspondence retailed,  
 The laziness indicting,  
 That sends a picture postcard,  
 With little dabs of writing!  
 —Annie P. L. Field, in the Century.

**MERELY JOKING.**  
 "Christmas causes a good many useless expenditures."  
 "Yes; some of the girls saw the mistletoe was a dead loss."—Washington Herald.

**Hard to Portray.**  
 "I don't think the book will dramatize the life of the great man."  
 "Why not?"  
 "The hero has a good many mental struggles, but that kind of combat doesn't go well on the stage."—Houston Chronicle.

**Not All Broke.**  
 I suppose it is pretty hard for a merchant to pay his taxes just now.  
 "Oh, no. We still have some customers. Lots of people received money for Christmas."—Pittsburg Post.

**Always a Way.**  
 "And why should I give you an interview?"  
 "I must take back something," replied the reporter. "Unless you answer my questions, I'll attribute a lot of mildewed questions to you."  
 He got the interview.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Knew from Experience.**  
 Mrs. Frost: "Who was it that said, 'Peace, perfect peace'?"  
 "The man who owned whose telephone was out of order."—Life.

**Much Less Smoke Himself.**  
 "He married an old-fashioned woman."  
 "Is that so?"  
 "Yes; she won't even let him smoke in the house."—Detroit Free Press.

**PERTINENT POINTS.**  
 The King of Serbia has been asked to abdicate. Such consideration should be appreciated. His predecessor, it will be remembered, was not given a choice.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Our kindly government has issued a primer on the handling of explosives, but as Mr. Roosevelt is in Africa, he need not regard it as personal.—Chicago News.

Will a congressional record of masterful inactivity satisfy the voters next fall?—Boston Herald.

Mr. Cook can double his fortune now by coming out of his hole and telling all about it.—Buffalo News.

They are talking again about a plan for universal disarmament. We are in favor of it, but the State officers include Cannon.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Jim Jeffries' illness is not of a serious nature, according to the spreading news. Just a little breaking out around the mouth, apparently.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Tolstoy's publisher is to be sent to a Russian prison, notwithstanding the fact that he has been publishing anti-poetry for Tolstoy.—Chicago Record-Herald.

**STATE PRESS**  
 Ignoring Our Income Tax.  
 The fact that twelve counties in the State do not return a single dollar of income tax is a reflection not only upon the counties themselves, but upon the means charged with the assessment of taxes. This chargeable phenomenon means that any person in the city of Norfolk who pays a dollar of income tax pays more income tax than all the citizens of a dozen counties which had a total population of about 250,000. It is not a fact that under the law the income taxes of State officers must be deducted from their salaries each year before they are paid. Even if it were, it is no less amazing that in twelve counties no citizen voluntarily confessed \$100 of income over \$100 a year exempt by law.—Norfolk Landmark.

**Adjusting the Primary Bill.**  
 This paper is hoping that the real friends of the primary system will get together and pass the bill in some shape, each man who has an objection giving way before the fact that he has no money to pay. It will not be fair for many to lay the blame on the cook if they begin the Christmas dinner with little appetite and end it with a weak stomach. It may not be fair for any to do that—let us hope so for the sake of the cook. The disease dyspepsia indicates a bad stomach, that is a weak stomach, rather than a bad cook and for a weak stomach there is nothing else equal to Hood's Sarsaparilla. It gives the stomach vigor and tone, cures dyspepsia, creates appetite and makes eating the pleasure it should be.

**The Christmas Dinner.**  
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**Humors of War.**  
 War in the more or less remote future between two British islands is such a degree of a subject of popular discussion and of apprehension that it may be interesting and timely to call attention to the fact that England and Germany have never yet had occasion to fight one another through all the centuries of their history. England has fought the Dutch and the French, the Spanish, the Portuguese, the Austrians, the Italians, the Russians and the Turks, as well as Denmark and the Norwegians. In the same way, she has crossed swords with almost every nation in Europe since the dawn of time. While the English and Prussians have never fought, the latter, however, have met the Scotch in sanguinary conflict, and again in his poem of "The Scots" the Scots' has placed on lasting record the story of how a brigade of Scotchmen were taken service by the French, stormed over the Rhine, off the Aisne shore, and swept the force of Prussians holding it into the water with "Scotland's broad claymores."  
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## **One of the Essentials**

### **Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.**

Products of actual excellence and reasonable claims truthfully presented and which have attained to world-wide acceptance through the approval of the Well-Informed of the World; not of individuals only, but of the many who have the happy faculty of selecting and obtaining the best of the world affords.

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**Protecting Graveyards.**  
 A bill to the effect of an administrator for a division of an estate, with orders to reserve the graveyard. Since it has changed hands several times, last parties claim there is no record to show reservation. Will the law reserve it or what steps can be taken?

**Unless the original deed specifically reserved the graveyard you have no redress. The statute law on the subject (Code, section 3765) only protects incorporated graveyards.**

**"An Indian Giver."**  
 A sold his standing timber to B. giving B twelve months to get it off. B, the timber in five months, and moved his mill and lumber at once. B gave A all his outside slabs. Now, six months later, B gives these same slabs to C. Can A sue B for the slabs? Has he that right?

**Certainly not, if you can prove the gift. A civil action may be necessary, however, before you can get the wood.**

**Entering Church, etc.**  
 1. When a young lady and gentleman enter church is it correct for the lady to walk in the aisle ahead of the gentleman or the gentleman ahead of the lady?  
 2. Where will the next exposition be held?  
 3. Is the editor of your column a lady or gentleman? I have heard it was a lady.  
 4. The lady should always walk ahead of the gentleman.  
 5. We do not know to what exposition.

**PROGRESS WAS WIFE OF KING**

Mother Maria Benedicta Married King Miguel After His Deposition.

**EGYPT AND SUEZ CANAL**

Pressure Being Brought to Induce Khedive to Prolong Concession for 150 Years.

**BY LA MARQUE DE FOTENOT.**  
 MOTHER MARIA BENEDICTA, a professed nun of the Benedictine Convent of St. Cecilia, at Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, married the King of Portugal, who died there last week, was the full-fledged widow of an ex-king, and her demise has the effect of placing in mourning the former Miss Anita Stewart, of New York, who is married to her grandson, Dom Miguel of Braganza. Mother Maria Benedicta, who took the vows of a nun some fourteen years ago, was by birth a member of the German mediocrity or formerly sovereign house of Lowenstein-Rosenberg, and as such qualified herself on a footing of perfect equality with the members of the royal families of Europe. She married, after his deposition and exile, King Miguel, who was crowned in 1828 until 1834 the throne of Portugal, which he had usurped at the expense of his niece, Queen Maria delia Gloria, who had been conduced to his guardianship.

Mother Maria Benedicta can, therefore, be described as having been a Queen, since her husband was no longer King of Portugal when she became his wife. She spent her entire married existence with him in Austria, where she was known as the Duchess of Braganza. She had a large family of children, including the widowed Archduchess Theresa, stepmother of the Austrian heir-presumptive; the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg; the Duchess Charles Theodore of Bavaria, who has just lost her husband, who achieved so much fame as an oculist, and the Infanta Maria of the Snows, married to the only son of the late Don Carlos, pretender to the throne of Spain. The new Queen of Belgium is a grandchild of the late Archduchess Theresa, and her daughter, Maria Annunziata, who occupies the role of first lady of the land at the courts of Emperor Francis Joseph.

The princess was frequently visited by the ladies of the reigning house of England, who called at her convent whenever they happened to be in the Isle of Wight. This natural tendency to render still more pointed the absence of any of their number or of their representative in the British royal family at the wedding of Dom Miguel of Braganza to Miss Stewart in Scotland last fall.

**King Leopold's Library.**  
 Through the death of Leopold II., one of the most valuable libraries in Europe will become in a measure accessible to the outer world. Leopold I., during the many years which he spent in England, first of all as the husband and then as the widower of Princess Charlotte of Wales, and afterwards, as King of the Belgians, devoted large sums of money, of which he had an abundance, to the collection of literary treasures. A bibliophile of much discernment and experience, he was always on the lookout for bargains, and at the time of his death had managed to gather together one of the most valuable collections in Europe.

When his will was opened it was found that he had bequeathed the library to the University of London.

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